

## Message Text

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15

ACTION H-03

INFO OCT-01 NEA-06 ISO-00 SS-07 NSC-06 AID-01 RSC-01 /025 W  
----- 023517

O R 241023Z JAN 75  
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
TO AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE  
SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5351  
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

UNCLAS TEL AVIV 533

ROME PLEASE PASS SENATOR PERCY

DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS TOME FLAHERTY IN SENATOR'S OFFICE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OREP (PERCY, CHARLES)

SUBJ: SENATOR PERCY'S TEL AVIV PRESS CONFERENCE STATEMENT

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF OPENING STATEMENT BY SENATOR PERCY  
AT PRESS CONFERENCE IN TEL AVIV JAN 23. TRANSCRIPT OF  
QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FOLLOWS SEPTTEL.

1. I BELIEVE THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL DEEPLY DESIRE PEACE.

2. I LEAVE ISRAEL, AS I LEFT THE OTHER CONFRONTATION  
STATES IN THIS REGION, CONVINCED THAT THE OPPORTUNITY FOR  
AN HONORABLE SETTLEMENT OF ARAB-ISRAELI DIFFERENCES HAS  
RARELY BEEN GREATER THAN NOW, AND WILL NOT BE AS GREAT  
AGAIN IF WE MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY.

3. PRIME MINISTER RABIN, WITH WHOM I SPENT SEVERAL HOURS  
YESTERDAY, PERSONIFIES THE RESPONSIBLE, MODERATE LEADERSHIP  
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THAT I HAVE FOUND IN SO MUCH OF THE MIDDLE EAST ON MY CURRENT

TOUR OF THE AREA. IF A LASTING PEACE CANNOT BE ACHIEVED BY MEN AS OUTSTANDING AND SENSIBLE AS PRIME MINISTER RABIN AND PRESIDENT SADAT OF EGYPT, AMONG OTHERS, WHO CAN ACHIEVE IT?

4. THERE IS NO TIME TO WASTE. AGAIN AND AGAIN ON THIS TRIP, I HAVE BEEN ADVISED BY LEADERS ON ALL SIDES AS WELL AS BY NEUTRAL OBSERVERS THAT TIME IS RUNNING OUT. I HOPE THIS IS NOT TRUE, BUT CERTAINLY SUCH WARNINGS SHOULD BE TAKEN SERIOUSLY. WITH A MODICUM OF GOOD WILL ON BOTH SIDES, WITH A RECOGNITION THAT SOME DEGREE OF COMPROMISE WILL EVENTUALLY BE REQUIRED BY ALL PARTIES, AND WITH THE WILLINNESS OF THE BRILLIANT, TIRELESS HENRY KISSINGER TO HELP IN EVERY WAY HE POSSIBLY CAN, NOW IS CLEARLY THE TIME TO TAKE ANOTHER STEP TOWARD PEACE.

5. NO ONE COULD DOUBT THE COMMITMENT OF THE UNITED STATES TO THE SURVIVAL AND SUCCESS OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL; THAT COMMITMENT HAS BEEN DEMONSTRATED REPEATEDLY DURING THE PAST QUARTER CENTURY. BUT IT IS CRITICALLY IMPORTANT THAT THE GOVERNMENT AND THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL UNDERSTAND THAT THE UNITED STATES WILL NOT SUPPORT ISRAEL, RIGHT OR WRONG. IF ISRAEL MAKES A FIRST STRIKE, OR CLEARLY CREATES THE CONDITIONS WHICH LEAD TO WAR, THEN I BELIEVE THAT AMERICA'S TRADITIONAL SUPPORT OF ISRAEL WOULD FADE OVERNIGHT. SIMILARLY, OF COURSE, SHOULD ONE OF THE ARAB COUNTRIES INITIATE STILL ANOTHER MID-EAST WAR, UNITED STATES SYMPATHIES AND SUPPORT WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY BE WITH ISRAEL. AND I HAVE REPEATED THAT STATEMENT IN EVERY SINGLE ONE OF THE TEN ARAB COUNTRIES THAT I HAVE GONE TO AND MADE THAT STATEMENT FACE TO FACE WITH THE REIGNING MONARCHS OR THE CHIEFS OF STATE IN EVERY ONE OF THOSE ARAB COUNTRIES. WARS MANY TIMES COME ABOUT AS A RESULT OF MISUNDERSTANDING AND MISCALCULATION AND CERTAINLY WE WISH TO PREVENT ANY OPPORTUNITY FOR MISUNDERSTANDING, ANY CHANCE FOR MISCALCULATION BY EITHER SIDE. AMERICANS RECOGNIZE THAT A FIFTH WAR IN THIS REGION WOULD BE EXTREMELY DAMAGING NOT ONLY TO THE SO-CALLED "WINNERS" AND LOSERS, BUT COULD PROVE DISASTROUS TO MUCH OF THE WESTERN WORLD AS WELL. THE UNITED STATES IS PRIMARILY INTERESTED IN PEACE, AND THE FORD-ROCKEFELLER ADMINISTRATION, THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES AND THE AMERICAN PEOPLE ARE STRONGLY UNITED

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BEHIND HENRY KISSINGER'S SEARCH FOR A REASONABLE SETTLEMENT, WHICH IS NOW THE NUMBER ONE PRIORITY OF AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY.

6. THIS SEARCH WILL REQUIRE CREATIVITY, COMPROMISE, PATIENCE AND THE ABILITY TO RISE ABOVE OLD HATREDS AND ANIMOSITIES. BUT WITH UNDERSTANDING, FOREBEARANCE AND BY KEEPING AN ULTIMATE COMMON GOAL FOREVER UPPERMOST IN MIND,

PEACE CAN BE ACHIEVED. AND THE ULTIMATE GOAL THAT ALL OF US HAVE IN MIND IS PEACE, RECOGNITION OF THE RIGHTS OF SOVEREIGNTY FOR ALL THE NATIONS IN THIS AREA, AND THE RIGHT OF THE PEOPLE OF THOSE NATIONS TO LIVE IN SECURITY, TO LIVE FREE FROM THE FEAR THAT HAS PERMEATED SO MUCH OF THIS AREA AND CERTAINLY HAS PERMEATED ISRAEL FOR SO MANY YEARS.

7. I HAVE HAD PRIVATE MEETINGS WITH PRIME MINISTER RABIN, DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND FOREIGN MINISTER ALLON; DR DINSTEIN, ADVISER ON ENERGY TO THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE, WHO I WILL BE MEETING WITH IN JUST A FEW MOMENTS; AND TONIGHT I WILL HAVE DINNER WITH DEFENSE MINISTER PERES. IN ADDITION, I WISH TO MEET AND HAVE MET, INFORMALLY WITH MANY JEWS AND PALESTINIAN LEADERS IN ISRAEL AND HAVE MET WITH MANY PALESTINIANS IN ARAB COUNTRIES THAT I HAVE VISITED. I HAVE TOURED JERUSALEM YESTERDAY WITH MAYOR TEDDY KOLLEK, AN OLD FRIEND, AND VISITED THE MARTYR'S AND HEROES MEMORIAL. WE FLEW TODAY TO THE GOLAN HEIGHTS FOR A PERSONAL DAY-LONG INSPECTION OF THE AREA, FROM ROSH PINA TO THE BORDERS OF KUNEITRA TO MAJDAL SHAMS, AND LUNCHEDED AT A KIBBUTZ TODAY AND I MIGHT SAY A VERY BEAUTIFUL ONE, INDEED THE MOST ATTRACTIVE ONE I HAVE BEEN IN.

8. EVERYWHERE WE WENT WE WERE GREETED WITH THE FRIENDSHIP, HOSPITALITY AND OPENNESS FOR WHICH THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL ARE JUSTLY FAMOUS, AND FOR WHICH WE ARE MOST GRATEFUL. DEEPLY, PAINFULLY CONSCIOUS OF PAST THREATS TO ISRAEL AND INDEED TO THE VERY EXISTENCE OF THE JEWISH PEOPLE, THE ISRAELIS, THE WORLD KNOWS, ARE WELL PREPARED TO DEFEND THEMSELVES. BUT ALONG WITH MOST OF THE MEN AND WOMEN ACROSS THEIR UNCERTAIN BORDERS, THEY SHARE A GREAT LONGING TO LIVE IN PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE AND TO GET ON WITH THE BUSINESS OF BUILDING THEIR HOMELAND. UNLESS EXTREMISTS

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ON EITHER SIDE ARE ALLOWED TO PUSH THE REGION INTO WAR YET AGAIN, THERE IS NO GOOD REASON THAT THIS WIDESPREAD LONGING SHOULD NOT BE FULFILLED.

VELIOTES

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED ABOVE ADDRESSEE.

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